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ON PAGE A-10

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## Soviets Say Nixon Had Been Booked on Flight 007

MOSCOW, Sept. 14 (AP)—The Soviet news media said today that former President Nixon canceled a reservation on Korean Air Lines Flight 007 because the CIA "did not dare send a former president to his death" and alerted him at the last minute. A Nixon assistant denied the report.

The official Tass news agency and Radio Moscow said such a report in the mass-circulation West German magazine Quick was "evidence" of a CIA plot to send the Boeing 747 over Soviet territory Sept. 1.

The Kremlin has claimed the plane, which carried 269 people to their deaths, was on a spy mission for the United States. The Soviets also say the fighter pilot who shot it down thought it was a U.S. RC-135 spy plane.

In its Sept. 8 edition, Quick said that

Nixon was booked on the South Korean jet out of New York and was to have been seated next to Rep. Larry MacDonald (D-Ga.), chairman of the John Birch Society.

"But at the last minute, Mr. Nixon did not take the flight," Tass said.

"Evidently the American intelligence establishment did not dare send a former president to his death. Quite probably he was in the know from the outset," Tass added.

Neither Tass nor Quick cited any source for the report.

Nicholas Ruwe, Nixon's assistant, said that the former president "was never booked on Korean Air Lines Flight 007 to Seoul, let alone Flight 007."

He said that Nixon "never held a reservation to Seoul on any other airline . . . . Former President Nixon has hun-

dreds of foreign and domestic invitations under consideration at any given time. The Seoul conference was one of them, and it had been declined."

On Sept. 3 The New York Post said Nixon would have been on the plane that was shot down "if he hadn't turned down an invitation to Seoul, South Korea."

It said Nixon declined an invitation "to go along with Rep. Larry McDonald . . . to the conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korea mutual defense treaty."

According to the Post, former Nixon aide Franklin R. Gannon said, "I was with President Nixon yesterday, and he reminded me that he had had this offer. He considered it seriously for several months and decided against it."

The invitation came from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), according to Gannon.